

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3304

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1720

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NL, PO, US

SUBJECT: PRESS LEAK ON DUTCH DEMARCHE ON PORTUGUESE COLONIAL ISSUE

REF: STATE 63598

1. SUMMARY: APRIL 3 NRC HANDELSBLAD CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORY REPORTING USG HAD REFUSED SUPPORT DUTCH INITIATIVE FOR PRESSURING PORTUGAL TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. ARTICLE STATED WHILE USG SYMPATHETIC TO DUTCH AIMS RECENT EVENTS IN PORTUGAL AND US INTEREST IN AZORES BASE SUGGESTED SUCH INITIATIVE MIGHT BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. END SUMMARY.

2. APRIL 3 NRC HANDELSBLAD CARRIED STORY BY-LINED BY EPPO JANSEN (RECENT LEADER GRANTEE) INDICATING USG HAD TURNED DOWN DUTCH REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF INITIATIVE AIMED AT PRESSING LISBON INTO NEGOTIATING WITH PORTUGUESE COLONIAL RESISTANCE. ARTICLE SAID DUTCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON INFORMED THAT USG SYMPATHETIC TO DUTCH AIMS BUT RECENT EVENTS IN PORTUGAL AND OUR DESIRE NOT TO COMPLICATE AZORES BASE ISSUE MADE SUCH SUPPORT IMPRACTICAL. ARTICLE NOTES DEMARCHE TO US AND POSSIBLY BRAZIL PART OF ONGOING DUTCH EFFORT (EC STUDY GROUP ON SAME QUESTION). IT ALSO EXPLAINS ROLE PLAYED BY AZORES BASE IN US RESUPPLY OPERATION DURING YOM KIPPUR WAR. JANSEN ARTICLE NOTES MFA REFUSED COMMENT ON STORY AS DID BRAZILIAN EMBASSY. ARTICLE CONCLUDED WITH REPORT

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OF JANSEN'S DISCUSSIONS WITH LABOR PARTY INTERNATIONAL SECTY. TER

BEEK WHO SAID, AFTER RECENT MEETING OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL IN LONDON, HE HAD IMPRESSION NETHERLANDS INITIATIVE WOULD HAVE BRITISH SUPPORT AND THIS MIGHT GALVANIZE GERMANS TO TAKE MORE ACTIVE SUPPORT ROLE.

3. COMMENT: JANSEN ASKED EMBOFF FOR REACTION TO HIS STORY BUT WAS TOLD EMB NOT IN POSITION TO COMMENT. SO FAR STORY NOT PICKED UP BY OTHER MEDIA. MENTION OF TER BEEK CONVERSATION SUGGESTS SOURCE COULD BE SOMEONE IN LABOR PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP AWARE OF INITIATIVE, ALTHOUGH MFA LEAK ALSO POSSIBLE. MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PRONK (WHO FAVORS MORE ACTIVIST ROLE ON PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM ISSUE THAN FONMIN VAN DER STOEL) TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 30 (PRIOR RECENT REFTEL) HE WAS DISAPPOINTED BY "VERY NEGATIVE" RESPONSE TO DUTCH DEMARCHE. GOULD

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